

- II. Claims 8 and 9, drawn to a method for screening a library to identify the specific substrate recognized by a specific protease, classified in class 435, subclass 68.1.
- III. Claims 10-13, drawn to a method for assaying protease activity in vitro, classified in class 435, subclass 18.

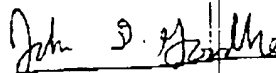
The applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. In particular, the three inventions are related and capable of use together. For example, in each of the groups of claims identified by the Examiner, there is a sequence encoding a substrate of a protease. In addition, in each of the groups of claims, changes in quenching of fluorescence are detected. Therefore, given the similarity of limitations between all groups of claims, it is clear that the inventions are indeed related. In fact, the invention is an elegant solution to problems presented in different contexts. A part of this elegance is the shared general platform of the invention that recognizes that the same general construct of an insertion of an amino acid sequence within a loop and detection of fluorescence quenching can be applied to determine protease activity upon coexpression of a substrate and a protease, for screening for a specific substrate, and for determining protease activity in vitro. Therefore, this restriction requirement is improper. In the alternative, the Applicant provisionally elects group I, however, for reasons previously expressed, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Regardless, due to the overlap in the claim language between the different groups of inventions, all of the classes and subclasses listed by the Examiner will need to be searched. Therefore, because only one search is required, and there are only 13 pending claims, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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